

*Washington, D.C. – Congressman Bruce Braley (IA-01) released the following statement tonight on President Obama's State of the Union address to a Joint Session of Congress:*

“In tonight’s speech, President Obama presented an ambitious vision for our country’s future – it’s a vision that I’ve been fighting for since I came to Congress.

“I fully support an innovation agenda for America. In Iowa, we are already leading the way in new energies like biofuels – with help from legislation like the New Era Act, which I introduced and passed into law, Eastern Iowa Community College and Hawkeye Community College are training the next generation of biofuels technicians right now.

“And I commend the President for recognizing the state of Iowa when he talked about expanding high-speed Internet to rural communities. It’s great to hear that this is high on his priority list, because it certainly is on mine.

“But even as we work to create the jobs of tomorrow, we cannot forget about jobs *today* – and the people who depend on having jobs today. American manufacturing is hurting – I’ve seen it in companies like Wilbert Plastic Service in Winthrop which has been open since the 1960’s. They employed over a hundred people. And they had to close down last year. This is unacceptable to me – and I won’t stop working until we can bring about a resurgence of American manufacturing. Because if we want families to make it in Iowa – or anywhere in America – we need to make things in America once again.

“I look forward to working with the President, and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to create jobs, to cut the deficit in a responsible way, to simplify government, to take care of our veterans and military families – and to give hard-working Americans in all of our districts a chance to succeed.”